

**Tidelock to Terminus**  
Highlights from the 9-Year  
Archeological and Historical Study of the C&O Canal

*by*

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From 2001 to 2010, archeologists of the Louis Berger Group, Inc., under contract to the National Park Service, conducted an archeological and historical survey and assessment of lands within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. As a result, much new information has come to light and new interpretations developed, especially in regard to the park's prehistory and early history, prior to the construction of the canal that began in 1828. Numerous stratified prehistoric sites were found, including one with a 10,000-year sequence of occupations. In addition, intensive historical and archeological research was directed toward finding the early eighteenth-century Shawnee village known as King Opessa's Town, with some unexpected results. In the same vicinity, we believe we have located the site of the fort or blockhouse of eighteenth-century frontiersman, Thomas Cresap. Other challenges facing the archeologists were identifying the faint archeological footprints of frontier settlers and squatters, and the "shanties" of canal laborers. It is these prehistoric and early historic sites and the people who created them that will be the main focus of this presentation.